

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE: [REDACTED]

The following is a list of some of the high-level officials of the North Korean Government. Included in the list are the positions these officials held in the government in mid-February 1953 and background information.

1. CHANG Si-u (1728/2514/7183), Minister of Trade. CHANG served as Minister of Commerce from September 1948 to November 1952. In November 1952 the Bureau of Trade was separated from the Ministry of Commerce and established as a new ministry with CHANG as its head.
2. CH'OE Ch'ang-ik (1508/2490/4135), Vice-Premier. CH'OE was appointed Minister of Finance when the People's Republic of North Korea was established in September 1948. He held the position until 17 November 1952, at which time he was made a vice-premier by the decision of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Council.
3. CH'OE Yong-kon (1508/1661/0256), Minister of National Defense. CH'OE has held this position since the establishment of the North Korean Government in September 1948. He was given the rank of a general by a decision of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Council on 7 February 1953, the same time that KIM Il-song was given the rank of Marshal.
4. CH'ONG Chun-t'aek (6774/3294/3419), Chairman of the National Planning Commission. CH'ONG has held this position since the establishment of the North Korean Government in 1948.¹
5. CH'ONG Il-yong (6774/0001/7893), Vice-Premier. Before the end of World War II, CH'ONG was a laborer in the Hungnam Fertilizer Plant. In August 1945 he was appointed manager of the Mung'yong Refinery, and early in 1947 was made vice-chief of the Bureau of Industry of the North Korean People's Committee. When the North Korean Government was established in 1948, CH'ONG was appointed Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Industry, and upon the death of Minister KIM Ch'aek (6855/4595) in February 1951, CH'ONG became Minister of Industry. When

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When the Ministry of Industry was divided into the Ministries of Light and Heavy Industry in December 1951, CHÖNG became Minister of Heavy Industry. On 17 November 1952 he was made one of the five vice-premiers by a decision of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Council. He acquired supervisory responsibility for the Ministry of Heavy Industry, the Ministry of Light Industry, the Ministry of Chemistry and Construction Materials, the Ministry of Railway Transportation and the Electric Power Department of the North Korean Cabinet. CHÖNG was regarded as a trusted favorite by his colleagues and by KIM Il-söng.

6. HÖ Chöng-suk (6079/6297/3219), Minister of Culture and Propaganda. HÖ, a woman, has been in this position since the establishment of the North Korean Government in 1948. In February 1953 she was very unpopular among North Koreans.

7. HÖ Ka-i (6079/0668/3976), Vice-Premier. Prior to November 1952, HÖ was responsible for the Ministry of Heavy Industry, the Ministry of Light Industry, the Ministry of Chemistry and Construction Materials, the Ministry of Railways, and the Electric Power Department of the North Korean Cabinet. When KIM Ch'aeck died in February 1951, HÖ was appointed a vice-premier and Minister of Industry (B-5).² When the Ministry of Industry was divided into the Ministry of Heavy Industry and the Ministry of Light Industry, HÖ continued as a vice-premier with responsibility for these ministries. On 17 November 1952 CHÖNG Il-yong was made a vice-premier and assumed HÖ's ministry responsibilities. HÖ kept his post as a vice-premier.

8. HONG Myöng-hui (3163/0730/3556), Vice-Premier. HONG has held the position of vice-premier since September 1948.

9. HWANG To-yon (7806/6670/8673), Chief of the Statistics Department of the North Korean Cabinet. HWANG was appointed to this position in November 1951. Prior to this date he was chief of the Economic Planning Office of the Ministry of Industry.

10. KIM Il-söng, Premier, Supreme Commander of the North Korean Army, Chairman of the Military Commission, and Chairman of the North Korean Central Labor Party. On 7 February 1953 KIM Il-song was appointed to the rank of Marshal by a decision of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Council. Before the appointment KIM was a civilian.

11. KIM Tu-sam (6855/2435/0005), Minister of Heavy Industry. KIM was vice-chairman of the National Planning Committee until his appointment as Minister of Heavy Industry on 17 November 1952 to succeed CHÖNG Il-yong.

12. KIM Won-pong (6855/0337/7685), Minister of Labor. KIM was appointed Minister of Labor in January 1952. His previous position was as Minister of National Inspection.

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13. PAEK Hong-kon (4101/7703/0256), Minister of Chemistry and Construction Materials. PAEK served as Vice-Minister of Heavy Industry until his appointment as Minister of Chemistry and Construction Materials when this ministry was created in May 1952.
14. PAEK Nam-un (4101/0589/7189), Minister of Education. PAEK has held this post since 1948.
15. PAK Hōn-yōng (2613/2009/3057), Vice-Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs. PAK has held these positions since September 1948.³
16. PAK Mun-kyu (2613/2429/1145), Minister of Agriculture. PAK has held this post since 1948.
17. PANG Hak-se (2455/1331/0013), Minister of Internal Affairs. When the Ministry of Social Security was established in 1950, PANG was appointed Minister and held this post until this ministry and the Ministry of Internal Affairs were merged in November 1952. At that time PANG became Minister of Internal Affairs.
18. YI Chong-ūk (2621/6945/2485), Minister of Light Industry. YI was the manager of the Ch'ongjin Textile Factory from 1949 until the establishment of the Ministry of Light Industry in January 1952, at which time he was appointed Minister.
19. YI Kuk-no (2621/0344/7627), Minister without Portfolio. YI, who was also the chairman of the Korean Language Association, has held the position of Minister without Portfolio since 1948.
20. YI Pyōng-nam (2621/3521/0589), Minister of Public Health. YI has held this position since 1948.
21. YI Sūng-yōp (2621/2573/9756), Chairman of the People's Inspection Committee. YI was Minister of Justice at the outbreak of the Korean War in June 1950. He was appointed mayor of Seoul on 28 June 1950 when the North Korean Army occupied the city. In October 1952 the Ministry of National Inspection was reformed and YI became chairman of the People's Inspection Committee.
22. YUN Hong-kum (1438/ ? / ?), Minister of Finance. YUN was chairman of the P'yōngyang City Labor Party until he succeeded CH'OE Chang-ik as Minister of Finance when CH'OE was promoted to Vice-Premier on 17 November 1952.

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Comment. KIM Chōng-chu (6855/1694/2691) headed the Ministry of Communications until he was killed in an air raid on P'yōngyang on 27 January 1953. Up to 11 February his successor had not been appointed.

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Comment. [] the same source reported the name of the Minister of Communications as CHONG Sōng-chu (6774/2052/2691) instead of as the above. [] the same report gave KIM Chong-tu (6855/2973/2435) as Minister of Communications in January 1953. Information available to this office indicates that KIM Chong-chu is the correct name.

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1. [] Comment. CHōNG Chun-t'ae (6774/0193/3419) was Minister of Communications in August 1952, according to a fairly reliable source. []

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2. [] Comment. This biographical material on Hō Ka-i is contradicted by the biography on CHōNG Il-yong appearing in paragraph 5 of this report.

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3. [] Comment. PAK's name has been missing from North Korean news dispatches since March 1953. Radio P'yōngyang listed YI Tong-kun as acting Foreign Minister on 19 May 1953.

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